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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/698,905	10/27/2000	Patrick D. McDonald	00,500	8219

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON JR, FOREST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/698,905

Applicant(s)

MCDONALD, PATRICK D

Examiner

Forest Thompson Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-26 have been examined.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7, 10-11 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "User's Guide, Borland Paradox for Windows;" Borland International, Inc.; v5.0; 1994 (hereafter referred to as Paradox).

Claims 1-7, 10-11, 25-26: Paradox discloses:

- obtaining information from other organizations (i.e., a plurality of repositories) (pg. 268-275), through the functionality of identifying information output by filename from another source and its format;
- transforming the plurality of information maintained in a plurality of formats into a unified database format, thereby creating transformed information (pg. 268-275);
- automatically processing forms (pg. 152);
- creating a plurality of database records in a database with transformed information using the unified database format (pg. 268-275);

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- extracting selected information from the plurality of formats (pg. 268-275),  
through the functionality of editing and selecting the information in a file to be imported;
- storing the selected information in a database (pg. 268-275);
- deleting duplicate or incomplete entries (pg.256-258);
- creating a database record (pg. 151-153);
- linking the database record with other database records (pg. 308-312);
- reading a database record (pg. 107-110);
- processing information from paper documents, microfiche, CD-ROMs, or  
computer tapes (pg. 268-275);
- combining two or more information fields into one information field (pg. 218-219;  
pg. 409-411);
- electronically linking selected ones of the plurality of database records in the  
database to original information from the plurality of repositories (pg. 268-275; pg. 308-  
312), that is disclosed through the functionality of providing a link/reference to the  
original data file created from the data obtained from a data source;

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 8-9 and 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "User's Guide, Borland Paradox for Windows;" Borland International, Inc.; v5.0; 1994 (hereafter referred to as Paradox) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Official Notice.

Claims 8-9, 12-18: Paradox does not specifically disclose create a plurality of pass-through database records; reading the database information to determine contact information relative to the database information; using the contact information to provide notifications; electronically collecting appropriate information required by one or more service providers (e.g., unclaimed property repositories) to disburse unclaimed property; nor electronically collecting a fee. However, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made that links (linking addresses) could be used as data entries in a database to automatically link to and draw data from the referenced database for the purpose of efficiency/economy of database operations and database space utilization. The link data would be a data entry equivalent to any other, but utilizing a particular format for functional purposes. Additionally, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made that contact information may be obtained and stored by service providers in a database with other data for the purpose of communicating status and other pertinent information to the contacts, and charging a fee for the service of communicating such data. An example is buyer information for buyers who buy products through on-line or on-site sales and pay electronically (e.g., by providing credit card information). This

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information is often used for payment processing, warranty validation, delivery notification, and/or communication processing for other purposes. Also, service providers typically charge fees for the services that they perform. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the disclosure of Paradox to specifically create a plurality of pass-through database records, read the database information to determine contact information relative to the database information, use the contact information to provide notifications, electronically collecting appropriate information required by one or more service providers (e.g., unclaimed property repositories) to disburse unclaimed property, and electronically collecting a fee, as disclosed by old and well known art, for the motivation of acquiring unclaimed property information and automatically requesting disbursement of unclaimed property.

Claim 19-20: Paradox discloses:

- providing a graphical user interface (pg. 508-525), which is disclosed through the functionality of creating and using graphs;
- electronically collecting appropriate information;
- automatically processing forms using the collected information;

Additionally, Official Notice is taken that delivery of the property or product when forms/applications/purchase agreements are (electronically or manually) completed was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made and encompasses the feature of automatically requesting disbursement to the identified owner at that time.

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On-line service providers fulfill their agreements when their requirements are met (e.g., payment is provided). And, the forms stored in a database can be used to automatically draw pertinent data from the database when the forms are used, based on query routines stored and used by the database user. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the disclosure of Paradox to specifically disclose disbursing or delivering the property or product (e.g., unclaimed property) when forms/applications/purchase agreements are completed, as disclosed by old and well known art, for the motivation of automatically requesting disbursement of unclaimed property.

Claim 21: Paradox discloses data includes any data the user wants to insert from internal or external data sources. This data may include only specific information required by the one or more unclaimed property repositories to recover unclaimed property.

Claim 22: Paradox discloses collecting data via a form written in Hyper Text Markup Language or extensible Markup Language or the type of input form and presented to an owner of unclaimed property via the Internet (pg. 152).

Claim 23: Paradox does not specifically disclose the fee is electronically collected automatically for a credit card, debit card, or electronically deducted from a checking or savings account. However, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the

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art at the time the invention was made that fees could be electronically collected automatically for a credit card, debit card, or electronically deducted from a checking or savings account by on-line service providers. This facilitates rapid transaction verification and completion for the on-line service provider. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the disclosure of Paradox specifically electronically collect the fee automatically for a credit card, debit card, or electronically deducted from a checking or savings account, as disclosed by old and well known art, for the motivation of automatically requesting disbursement of unclaimed property.

Claim 24: Paradox discloses automatically collecting and displaying input forms to collect appropriate information based on an identifier (pg. 31-32), as illustrated by selecting records based on customer number.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art includes:

- Greene, Joe; "Oracle DBA Survival Guide;" Sams Publishing; 1995; discloses selected pages from a user's manual for generating, using and updating an Oracle database.





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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Forest Thompson Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 306-5449. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on (703) 308-1344. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
F. Thompson  
July 15, 2003

  
Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner